

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A conveyor dishwasher having at least one washing zone, at least one rinsing zone, a heat-recovery device, a drying zone and a suction-extraction means, ~~wherein~~ the dishwasher further comprising:

an exhaust-air fan ~~[[is]]~~ employed in the suction-extraction means for exhausting air from a plurality of the zones through the ~~heat-reeovery~~ heat-recovery device;

a plurality of openings ~~[[are]]~~ provided between the zones and the suction-extraction means for conducting flows of air from the zones to the suction-extraction means;

a closing element ~~[[is]]~~ provided at each opening for controlling the flow of air through the opening, each of the closing elements being movable between an open position, a wholly closed position and a partially closed position; ~~[[and]]~~ wherein

a capacity of the exhaust-air fan, and thus an exhaust-air quantity withdrawn through the heat-recovery device is controlled in dependence on the operating state or states; and wherein

the movement of the closing elements between the open, wholly closed and partially closed positions is controlled in dependence on an operating state of individual ones of the zones of the dishwasher.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in ~~claim 2, and~~ claim 1, further comprising:

a speed control means for varying the capacity of the exhaust-air fan; and wherein the capacity of the exhaust-air fan can be varied via the speed-control means in dependence on the operating state or states.

5. (previously presented) The conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 4, wherein the speed-control means comprises a frequency converter or an electric drive of the exhaust-air fan with a multiple coil.
6. (previously presented) A process for operating a conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1, wherein the suction extraction of air from the conveyor dishwasher takes place in dependence on the operating state or states of the conveyor dishwasher, the operating state or states being controlled by the disposition of wash ware in the dishwasher.
7. (previously presented) The process as claimed in claim 6, wherein the closing elements are wholly or partially closed when the at least one washing zone is switched off, the at least one rinsing zone is switched off and the drying zone is switched off, and when there is no wash ware located in these zones.
8. - 10. (canceled)
11. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A conveyor dishwasher as claimed in claim 1 having at least one washing zone, at least one rinsing zone, a heat-recovery device, a drying zone and a suction-extraction means, wherein the dishwasher further comprising:
an exhaust-air fan employed in the suction-extraction means for exhausting air from a plurality of the zones through the heat-recovery device;
a plurality of openings provided between the zones and the suction-extraction means for conducting flows of air from the zones to the suction-extraction means;
a closing element provided at each opening for controlling the flow of air through the opening, each of the closing elements being movable between an open position, a wholly closed position and a partially closed position; wherein
the movement of the closing elements between the open, wholly closed and partially closed positions is controlled in dependence on an operating state of individual ones of the zones of the dishwasher; and wherein

the movement of the closing elements between the open, wholly closed and partially ~~open~~
closed positions is effected directly or indirectly by wash ware in the dishwasher via
deflectable lever elements.